Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>

Fwd: A concerned member of Burlington Unidos- letter to Mitch O' Farrell

1 message

Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org> Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 10:52 AM
To: Craig Bullock <craig.bullock@lacity.org>, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: [redacted] <[redacted]@outlook.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 10:47 PM
Subject: A concerned member of Burlington Unidos- letter to Mitch O' Farrell
To: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and team,

My name is [redacted] and I'm part of the Burlington Unidos tenants facing eviction. I know that you're already familiar with our story since many of your constituents have been trying to reach out to you regarding our case, but hear me out here. We, tenants at 131, 143, 171 Burlington Ave. LA, CA 90057, have been living for many years under very unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Pest and rodent infested units and building, and to make things worse the landlord charges for fumigation. Mold in restrooms are only painted over and over again with no real solution. Several tenants have roof leaks during the rainy season and some have even had their roofs collapse. Landlord charges us for normal wear-and-tear repairs. We had our hot water on and off throughout the day for many days before we even received a note from management telling us it was going to be fixed. Trash pick up only twice a week caused the trash containers to overflow, trash on the ground made the trash area and parking lot to stink, and to make things worse there was no proper clean up done by maintenance. A sewage pipe in one of the parking lots tends to burst, flooding the area with dirty water, we have to walk over it to get to our cars, and maintenance does an awful job cleaning it up and the bad stench stays for days. There are almost everyday plumbing leaks in the parking lot that we have to drive under and over puddles of dirty water. We have the videos to show you the above and more.....So Councilmember, I'm sure that you agree with me that there should be no tenant under your district that should be living under these slum conditions, not in Los Angeles, not anywhere. Unfortunately, this is our reality for the tenants at Burlington Apartments. While the landlord neglects our well being, the landlord still believes it is ok to raise our rent by $250-$400 monthly. There were no offers for renovations, no offers for repairs, no offers for improved maintenance, no offers for fumigations. That was a wake up call for us tenants, it's true that we are not protected under the RSO, that our rents are slightly below the market rate, but I honestly believe that there should be NO EXCUSE for uninhabitable living conditions, and I hope that you agree with me on this too. We realized that the only way to get the landlord's attention was to form Burlington Unidos and begin a rent strike. We have tried to negotiate with the landlord for a reasonable rent increase (pertaining to all the safety and health problems with the buildings) and improved maintenance and repairs as well as respect from management. The landlord doesn't seem to want to reach a fair negotiation with us at all. Therefore, this is where we seek for your help. For you to kindly meet with us, as a group, and give us the opportunity to share our experiences with you. We only ask that you, as our representative, show us your support against this unjust and inhumane treatment from our landlord and act as an intermediate for a negotiation. A slumlord who operates in your district and is taking advantage of hard working families. We stood up against our slumlord, and now we face eviction and homelessness. We seek justice and a safe and healthy home in our

community of Westlake. I'm sure you also agree that this is part of your responsibility? Beforehand, I truly appreciate your SUPPORT and look forward to hearing back from you soon since this is an URGENT matter.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from Outlook

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With kind regards,

Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District
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